

THE WHITE HOUSE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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WHASA

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE
PRECEDENCE

CLASSIFICATION

17 Sept 62
DATE

FROM:

TO: **CAPT. SHEPHERD EYES ONLY FOR THE PRESIDENT**

INFO:

CITE: _____

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--17 SEPTEMBER 1962

PAGE _____ OF _____

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--17 SEPTEMBER 1962

1. LAOS:

A. WE HAVE STRONG EVIDENCE [REDACTED] OF THE CONTINUING PRESENCE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE IN CENTRAL LAOS. LAST SATURDAY, A NEUTRALIST HEADQUARTERS IN NHOMMARATH REPORTED TO KHANG KHAY THAT ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAD LEFT SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE, THAT NONE HAD LEFT KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE, AND THAT THE REST ARE "STILL WITH THE PATHET LAO AND STAYING CONCEALED."

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B. APPARENTLY DIEM PLANS TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH VIENTIANE AS SOON AS HANOI'S AMBASSADOR IS OFFICIALLY RECEIVED, WHICH MAY BE SEVERAL DAYS YET. [REDACTED]

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2. COMMUNIST CHINA - US:

A. COMMUNIST CHINA'S AMBASSADOR WANG IN WARSAW HAS ASKED FOR AN EMERGENCY MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR CABOT. WE ASSUME IT WILL BE THE OCCASION FOR A BLAST AT US FOR THE U-2 INCIDENT AND ALSO FOR OUR NAVAL PATROL ACTIVITIES WHICH YESTERDAY BROUGHT FORTH PEIPING'S LATEST "SERIOUS WARNING."

B. AMBASSADOR CABOT WILL NOT BE IN WARSAW UNTIL WEDNESDAY.

3. BRAZIL:

A. WITH MOST OF THE MILITARY SHOWING LITTLE DISPOSITION TO BACK HIM IN A SHOWDOWN, PRESIDENT GOULART DECIDED ON SATURDAY THAT THE BETTER PART OF VALOR WOULD BE TO BOW TO THE WILL OF CONGRESS AND ACCEPT 6 JANUARY AS THE DATE FOR HIS PLEBISCITE ON THE FUTURE OF BRAZIL'S PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. THIS DONE, AND

(Cont'd)

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WITH CONGRESS ADJOURNED AND THE STRIKE CALLED OFF, THE SOUND AND FURY OF THE PAST WEEK HAVE RECEDED.

B. THE CONGRESSMEN ARE NOW BACK HOME FOR A FEW WEEKS OF POLITICKING BEFORE ELECTIONS EARLY NEXT MONTH. GOULART IS BUSYING HIMSELF WITH ASSEMBLING A GOVERNMENT FOR THE INTERIM.

4. SPAIN:

A. MADRID, [REDACTED] IS ABOUT TO RELINQUISH CONTROL OVER LABOR SYNDICATES AND TURN THEM OVER TO THE WORKERS.

B. A FORMER BOSS OF THE STATE-CONTROLLED SYNDICATES IS CURRENTLY IN THE US WITH AUTHORIZATION FROM FRANCO TO SEEK OUT ADVICE AND SUPPORT FROM AFL/CIO LEADERS.

5. SYRIA:

A. SYRIA'S LATEST GOVERNMENT CRISIS HAS PASSED WITH THE PARLIAMENT GIVING NEUTRALIST PREMIER AL-AZM A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AND POWER TO RULE BY DECREE FOR ONE YEAR. AT THE END OF THIS TIME, SYRIA IS SUPPOSED TO HOLD GENERAL ELECTIONS AND RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

B. THE ARMY, WHICH DOES NOT LIKE THIS MUCH AND DISLIKES AL-AZM EVEN MORE, HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO SWALLOW ITS RESERVATIONS.

C. IF AL-AZM IS TRUE TO FORM HE WILL COZY UP TO THE SOVIETS AND TRY AT THE SAME TIME TO EXTRACT AS MUCH AS HE CAN FROM US. A SYRIAN MILITARY MISSION HAS ALREADY ARRIVED IN MOSCOW.

6. NOTES:

A. USSR: IT NOW APPEARS ALL BUT CERTAIN THAT THE LATEST VENUS PROBE FAILED. [REDACTED]

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B. IRAQ: IRAQ IS ABOUT TO RECEIVE SOME PRETTY ADVANCED EQUIPMENT FROM THE SOVIETS UNDER THE AID AGREEMENT SIGNED LAST YEAR. THIS INCLUDES AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES FOR MIG-21S, ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILES (FIRST APPEARANCE OUTSIDE THE BLOC), AND FIVE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SITES--ONE FOR TRAINING AND FOUR TO DEFEND BAGHDAD. SOVIET MISSILE EXPERTS HAVE BEEN ON THE SCENE SINCE EARLY SUMMER.

C. AMBASSADOR BATTLE IN CANBERRA WAS TOLD BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THERE ON SATURDAY THAT PRIME MINISTER MENZIES AND MACMILLAN HAVE REACHED A BEHIND THE SCENES AGREEMENT ON BRITISH ACCESSION TO THE COMMON MARKET. WE DO NOT KNOW THE FORMULA YET.

D. REPORTS FROM THE KATANGAN GOVERNMENT THAT ADOULA'S TROOPS LAUNCHED AN "OFFENSIVE" LAST NIGHT AGAINST KONGOLO FOLLOW CLOSELY ON THE HEELS OF ASSURANCES TO US BY ADOULA THAT HE PLANNED NO FURTHER TROOP MOVEMENTS. WE HAVE NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE KATANGAN CHARGE.

E. NATIONALIST CHINA - CAMBODIA: [REDACTED]

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